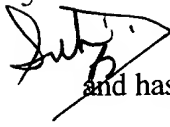


**PROTECTION OF SECOND POLE TIP THICKNESS
DURING FABRICATION OF A WRITE HEAD**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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Sub  A second pole tip of a second pole piece is formed at an air bearing surface and has a top surface and a bottom surface. The top surface of the second pole tip has a write region located at the ABS and a stitch region which is recessed from the ABS. A protective sacrificial layer is deposited on the write region of the second pole tip to protect the height of the second pole tip at the ABS from subsequent processing steps. 10 A portion of the sacrificial layer which covers the stitch region is removed so that a yoke portion of the second pole piece can be magnetically connected to the second pole tip at the stitch region. The invention provides several methods for removing the sacrificial layer from the stitch of the second pole tip.

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